



## Patrons will find Sushi and Socializing at Ra Lounge!

A Feng Shui oasis in the middle of Oranjestad has officially opened their doors, and for those that love their Japanese food with a light fusion of global influences, they will find a haven at Ra Sushi Lounge.

A presentation for the press not only offered an opportunity to try an exotic cocktail with names like “Karma Sutra” and “Natessa’s Aura.” from their extensive two page drink menu, but a never ending parade of dishes from chef Luis Fernando. Luis, a veteran of Sake House and Pasion Restaurant has a flair for both hot and cold Japanese delights, but has added his own gourmet touch, and the sampling offered to press and friends on Friday evening was not only impressive, but innovative and delicious.

Directing Manger Berjheny Perez looked lovely in her simply happy coat, as did all the staff. The idea of Ra is an all around experience for the discerning diner and socialite, come for a fabulous dinner; stay for a fabulous evening with friends and great music from one of the house DJ’s, with the opportunity to snack deliciously all night long if you prefer. “Sushi Night Life” is the phrase the owners have coined to describe their rather unique establishment’s purpose, and that pretty well sums it up.

Friday evening offered a sampling of a variety of fresh made sushi and sashimi, garnered with boiled soybeans, which are a particular favorite of ours. We must offer special complements for the ceviche, delicately marinated in lemon and seasoning, tender and not chewy, it was absolutely perfect, with just a little extra spiciness. This reporter judges it one of the best ceviches I have ever tasted. Hot dishes offered for taste testing included a Beef Tataki, very tender bits of fine quality beef marinated in soy sauce, lemon juice and onions served with a Ponzu Sauce, and we gobbled that up. Karaoke were crispy balls of minced crab, salmon, and vegetables that also proved delightful. We also noticed an unusual item on the menu that is also a personal favorite, boiled and lightly salted soybeans, a must for any restaurant that claims to carry authentic Japanese cuisine. For those that have never tried them, you are in for a healthy treat!

We could not list everything here as RA features an eight-page menu, including a selection for Kid’s dishes for only \$5.00. Some very interesting desserts such as Green Tea Ice Cream and Chocolate Sushi are intriguing, and await a testing at a future visit. Prices are very reasonable, with choices of individual sushi rolls of your favorite ingredients, or the chef’s artistic and innovative creations. There are also combination plates for those that would like to try a little of everything; perfect for a group of friends enjoying some infused sake and a social evening that require a snack to see them through a long night of fun.

From what we could see of the menu and elegant presentation, Ra Sushi Lounge is the dream restaurant of some very discerning people that have put together an establishment that has what they have always wanted to see in restaurants, but never quite found. It has a charming ambiance of dining *al fresco* that offers excellent cuisine at reasonable prices and you can linger with friends until the wee hours. Located “on the bridge” at the Aventura Mall, it offers a spectacular view of the town and harbor, a great place to watch the sunset, and then stay for dinner and beyond. The kitchen is open for late dinner until 2:00 AM weekdays and until 4:00 AM weekends; full dinner until midnight. Lunch is served from 11:30 Am until 3:00 P.M. so one can do some people watching over their sushi and tempura. Ra Sush Lounge is definitely worth a visit for lover’s of fine Japanese cuisine.